

To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
From: Swenson, Peter
Sent: Mon 8/28/2017 4:27:35 PM
Subject: Your email message regarding the Back Forty Project

Dear Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Thank you for your recent email comment to U.S. EPA regarding the proposed Aquila Resources Inc. Back Forty Project in Menominee County, Michigan.

As currently proposed, the Back Forty Project requires a number of permits, including permits required by federal statute. The State of Michigan has the authority and responsibility to review permit applications and issue these permits. In its oversight role, EPA reviews the State's permits to ensure their consistency with federal statutes. EPA has engaged with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) on each of the following permits required by federal law:

Clean Air Act Permit: During the public comment period, EPA stated its concerns with some of the draft air construction permit conditions. As part of its permitting process, MDEQ provided a response to comments document addressing EPA's comments and all comments received during the public comment period at time of final air construction permit issuance. MDEQ revised certain permit conditions to address EPA's concerns.

Clean Water Act Section 402 Permit (wastewater discharge permit): EPA provided comments on the draft permit during the public comment period. MDEQ provided a revised permit and the State's responses to comments. EPA provided additional comments to MDEQ on the revised permit. EPA's comments were focused primarily on toxicity testing and ambient monitoring requirements. EPA's comments were accepted by MDEQ and incorporated into the permit before it was issued on April 5, 2017.

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit (wetlands permit): In August 2016, EPA objected to MDEQ issuing a 'Wetlands and Inland Lakes and Streams Permit.' Aquila Resources Inc. subsequently withdrew its MDEQ permit application. In January 2017, Aquila Resources Inc. re-applied to MDEQ. After MDEQ completes review of the application for completeness, MDEQ will issue a public notice, at which time, the public, tribes, and EPA will have an opportunity to provide comments. EPA will provide a thorough review of the revised permit application at that time. The past wetland application materials are located at

miwaters.com, and the wetlands public notice will be posted there once it is issued.

Michigan also maintains state authority to issue mining permits under Part 632 of its Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. EPA does not have authority to oversee the State's Part 632 permits. If you have formal comments you wish to make, we recommend you submit them to the MDEQ within the relevant comment period.

EPA is committed to ensuring that permits issued by MDEQ for the Back Forty Project comply with applicable federal environmental protection laws.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Peter Swenson

Chief, Watersheds and Wetlands Branch

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5

Name: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
 Email:

Comments: Is your organization fully aware of an open pit Sulfide mine being proposed by the Canadian mine company Aquilla Resources Inc, to be in operation 150 feet from the shoreline of the Menominee River - in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan? The MDEQ is trying to o.k. a permit to have Aquilla take over a wet lands area of the mine site to begin mining operations.

Aquilla has printed material that states that they will be using Cyanide in the mining process to wash rock and stone to get to the gold deposits within the mine. Cyanide will be released back into the Menominee River. Aquilla has stated in public meetings that tailings, along with cyanide, along with mercury and lead will be flushed back into the river. The Menominee River flows into the Bay of Green Bay, which flows directly into Lake Michigan. All the hard work that your people do to bring the quality of the Great Lakes to its greatest quality, will be severely diminished. The MDEQ was responsible for the Mercury contamination of the City of Flint MI., and they will be also responsible for the poisoning of not only the Menominee River, but also Lake Michigan. Please sound the alarm to others in your organization about this next water holocaust brought to by Canadian mining company Aquilla Resources Inc. Please give me mailing addresses to all of your members, so we here in this area can send you printed information from Aquilla and from our grass roots organization to help stop the mine project. Thank You for your time in reading my email.

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